

Appl. No. 10/644,667
Amdt. dated October 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 15, 2005

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments

Before this Amendment, claims 1-22 were pending in the Application. Claims 1, 4, 14, and 20 are amended. Claims 2, 3, and 21 are canceled, and claims 23-25 are added. Therefore, claims 1, 4-20, and 22-25 are present for examination, and claims 1, 14, and 20 are the independent claims. No new matter is added by these amendments. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

35 U.S.C. §102 & 103 Rejections, Swan , Bossemeyer.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2 and 5-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the cited portions of U.S. Patent No. 5,978,451 to Swan et al. (hereinafter "Swan"). The Office Action has rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Swan in view of the cited portions of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0027565 to Bossemeyer et al. (hereinafter "Bossemeyer").

Turning to the §102(b) rejections, for a valid anticipation rejection, the Office must show that each and every limitation from the claims appears in a single piece of prior art. The Applicant believes limitations from amended claims 1, 14 and 20 are neither taught nor suggested in the Swan reference. More specifically, Swan cannot be relied on to teach or suggest: (1) a first communication interface coupled to at least *two* of a wireless phone network, a wired phone network, a satellite phone network, and a voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) network as required by claim 14, (2) a *user interface* accessible via the *Internet* from which the one or more access control rules may be modified as generally required by claim 20, or (3) routing an incoming phone call to a voice response system which queries a caller of the incoming phone call to record a greeting, and later using the *greeting* as a *ring tone* for the caller as required by claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the anticipation rejection be withdrawn for these reasons.

Appl. No. 10/644,667
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PATENT

1. First Communication Interface: Claim 14 calls for "receiving a phone call from a first communication interface coupled to at least *two* of a wireless phone network, a wired phone network, a satellite phone network, and a voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) network" (emphasis added). The Specification of the present invention describes a demarcation device which, in addition to the PSTN, may connect to a variety of wireless networks 120 (including satellite networks), or an Internet transport network 132 (Original Application, p. 2, ll. 28-29; p. 3, ll. 15-26). Swan suggests only a "conventional communication *line*" connected to a "central office" (emphasis added, Swan, Ref. Nums. 12, 14; Figs. 1, 2a, 2b; col. 4, ll. 25-62).

2. User Interface - Internet Accessible: Claim 21 states that "input from a user received via a user interface accessible by way of the Internet" may modify "one or more access control rules." The Specification of the present invention describes a demarcation device which may be configured from a "web interface ... accessible from the Internet" (Original Application, p. 4, l. 32 - p. 5, l. 2). In Swan, a PC 20 may be used for "generating a service configuration ... [for] the PCC 10" (Swan, col. 5., l. 60 - col. 6, l. 5). But Swan only teaches a PC within a house, and there is no suggestion that the configuration may be accomplished via the Internet (*Id.*, col. 6, ll. 3-6; Figs. 1, 2a, 2b).

3. Ring Tone Greeting: Claim 1 recites a "controller [which] routes the incoming phone call to a voice response system which queries a *caller* of the incoming phone call to *record a greeting*, and on a subsequent phone call from the caller routed to the second communication interface, a *ring tone* for the *subsequent call comprises the greeting*." The Specification describes how a message recorded from a caller "could be played next time in lieu of a generic ring tone once the caller ID identifies the caller" (Original Application, p. 9, ll. 1-5).

The Office Action states that Swan does not teach a "voice response system [which] queries a caller to record a greeting and playing the greeting to the called party" (Office Action, p. 6, sec. 7). The Office instead relies on Bossemayer for that teaching (*Id.*). However, Bossemayer only suggests a spoken name which is played immediately to inform the user who is calling. There is no teaching or suggestion that the recorded greeting be used as a ring tone on *subsequent calls* to identify the caller, as taught by the claims.

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CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 14, and 20 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 4-13, 15-19, and 22-25 are allowable in light of their dependence from those claims. In view of the foregoing, the Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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